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Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by International-Lawyers.Org, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the General Arab Women Federation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Organisation Mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale, the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-03077(E)

Please recycle

Torture a real human rights challenge in Iraq

Introduction

Today, the increasing threat of ISIS brings back the interest of the international community to Iraq. As the light is re-shed on Iraq, challenges within the society resurface.

A key human rights challenge that exists in Iraq is the continued widespread use of torture within the prison system. This is an issue that we (NGO's Signatories to this statement) have collected extensive evidence about and repeatedly brought to the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC).

Background

Iraqi authorities continue to use systemic torture despite the fact that Iraq has ratified the Convention Against Torture in 2011. Reports of torture within Iraqi prisons are well documented.

The UPR session of 2010 and 2014 highlighted the failure of the Iraqi government to implement their commitments. We, emphasize that the significance exists in governmental action that ensures the implementation of prohibitions against torture rather than the sole presence of a law.

Initially, the U.S. and coalition forces practiced torture during the 2003 war, this phenomena prevails today as a result of its implementation then.

The present day threat of ISIS forces the international community to turn a blind eye on Iraqi authorities' questionable actions as long as the activity is under the context of combatting terrorism in general and ISIS in specific. Hence, the authorities are empowered to use the infamous Article 4 of Iraqi Anti-terrorism law of 2005 on secterian and political basis. [1]

It is worth mentioning that, torture in Iraq is used by a variety of entities (police units, security forces, intelligence services and the army) all of which practice large-scale abduction and torture. Additionally, over 50 militia groups exist in Iraq, all with same capability as state actors. The numerous numbers of actors, makes it impossible to determine a chain of command and allocate a single responsible entity.

We, believe that the on-going problem of torture and related acts require a concerted international effort for elimination, an independent, unbiased judicial authority and a targeted strategy that pressurises the government.

Enhanced Interrogation techniques.

British Special Forces developed in 1971 Enhanced interrogation techniques (EITs). These involve five practices: hooding, wall standing; sleep deprivation, food and water shortage and subjection to noise. The use of such techniques is said to cause depression, hallucinations, loss of consciousness and long term psychological trauma. However, British forces and subsequently American saw them as neither cruel nor humane and therefore not classified as torture.

Since 2006 the Iraqi government conducted several campaigns to arrest those suspected of terrorist activities. Suspects are commonly transported to unknown detentions sites/prisons where EITs are used to extract wrongful information that is later use to convict them.

The Convention against Torture

Article 1 of the convention, outlines and defines torture, a definition obviously ignored currently by the Iraqi government and in the past by the U.S. and its allies.

Another key aspect of the convention was that it prohibits torture in all circumstances, Article 2. An article that was continuously ignored by U.S. authorities as the United States Department of Justice authorized EITs before the invasion of Iraq on the pretext that the convention's articles do not apply on interrogations carried outside the geographical jurisdiction of the U.S.

The decisions have since been reversed but we highlight that they played a key role in the in the establishment and entrenchment of torture practices within Iraq's Security Forces and prison system, especially at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

Baha Mousa

[1] Article 4 of Law no 13 of 2005, stipulates 50 different acts as terrorist activities. And allows for enhanced interrogation methods of those suspected of belonging to terrorist groups.

Baha Mousa, a hotel receptionist in Basra, Iraq, was arrested by British troops on 14 September 2003 and 36 hours later he was dead.[2]
The five EITs were applied to Mr Mousa,. His death came after sustaining 93 injuries including fractured ribs and broken bones. The subject was hooded for 24 hours of his total detention period.
His death challenges the notion that EITs are somehow less than torture. In fact, Baha Mousa's death is an excellent example of why such a minutia distinctions are fundamental when it comes to torture.

Abu Gharib

Baghdad central prison aka Abu Gharib is one of the world's most blatant detention centres. The prison was famous for torture, executions and poor inmate conditions.
The prison came under the authority and control of the U.S. military. Most prisoners kept there under American supervision were either: common criminals, detainees suspected of actions against the US troops and its coalition and a number of high value detainees (HVD).
In 2004 an extensive prison investigation was authorized. The report showed severe institutional failings. The investigation brought to light numerous cases of sadistic criminal abuses towards inmates.
The report further outlined that over 60% of civilian inmates at Abu Gharaib were deemed not be a threat to society, yet they were never released. This is a clear violation of the fourth Geneva Convention.
Ricardo Sanchez, a Lieutenant General and senior military officer in Iraq, authorized the use of dogs, extreme temperatures, and sensory deprivation for interrogation at Abu Ghraib.[3] Rumsfeld and the Pentagon dispute the claim yet, it is difficult to visualize a situation that did not include the knowledge of Washington.

Ali Shalal

Born Ali Shalal Abbass Al Qaiysi, he became a global symbol of the depravity of Abu Ghraib after the release of the famous hooded man photograph. [4] Mr Shalal's case shows the extent to which prisoners were tortured and deprived of their human dignity.
Mr Shalal, was transferred to Abu Gharaib a day following his arrest. The subject spent 6 at the detention venue mentioned above; during which he was brutally tortured and subjected to witnessing other inmates' torture sessions.
EITs composed the torture plan that Mr.Shalal was exposed to. To out surprise, various members of the prison staff raped Mr.Shalal.
Detainees were forced to sign documents that they would not speak with media or attempt to bring court cases. Many never made it out to even tell their stories to anyone. Fortunately, Mr.Shalal did.

Recommendations and Steps Forward

It is clear from the vast evidence that torture is a problem that must be tackled in Iraq. What we see in Iraq today is a remnant of the war and the subsequent occupation. Therefore, we see the need for collective international effort to put and end to current actions of the Iraqi government while simultaneously, holding the U.S. and coalition states accountable for actions committed during the occupation.
We, NGOs Signatories to this statement recommend:

- Relevant UN bodies open an investigation into allegations of torture by coalition troops and contracted troops during the 2003 war and subsequent occupation with a view to provide answers to families and hold those accountable responsible for their actions

- The international community undertakes all measures to ensure that Iraq abides by its international obligations and ends the use of torture once and for all

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[2]Williams, AT. "The Brutal Death of Baha Mousa." *The Guardian*. N.p., 3 May 2013. Web. 17 July 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com%2Fbooks%2F2013%2Fmay%2F03%2Finvestigate-brutal-death-baha-mousa>.

[3]Smith, R. Jeffrey. "General Granted Latitude At Prison." *The Washington Post*. N.p., 12 June 2004. Web. 17 July 2015. <http://www.washingtonpost.com%2Fwp-dyn%2Farticles%2FA35612-2004Jun11.html>.

[4] GICJ's most recent update from Mr. Ali Shalal came on 16 July 2015. Mr. Shalal corroborated once again the testimony he had provided on previous occasions as to the forms of torture he underwent and those who were responsible for it. We have included that information in this section.

- All UN bodies should seek and encourage the appointing of a Special Rapporteur for the human rights situation in Iraq

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The BRussells Tribunal, Arab Lawyers Association- UK, Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ), Association of Humanitarian Lawyers (AHL), The International League of Iraqi Academics (ILIA), The Iraqi Commission on Human Rights (ICHR), Women Will Association (WWA), Organization for Widows and Orphans (OWO), Ikraam Center for Human Rights, Belgian Peace Movement, Ligue camerounaise des droits de l'homme, International Coalition against War Criminals (ICAWC), Medical Aid for the Third World, Association of Iraqi Diplomats (AID), General Federation of Iraqi Women (GFIW), Association of Iraqi Intellectuals and Academics, The International Network of Arab Human Rights NGOs, The Perdana Global Peace Foundation, Kuala Lumpur Foundation to Criminalise War, Spanish Campaign against the Occupation and for Iraq Sovereignty- CEOSI, Arab Cause Solidarity Committee, Iraq Solidarity Association in Stockholm, Human Rights Defenders in Iraq (AHRDI), Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, The Iraqi Centre for Human Rights, Association, Organisation for Justice & Democracy in Iraq (OJDI), NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda items 3 and 4
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by International-Lawyers.Org, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the General Arab Women Federation, the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Organisation Mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale, the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

IRAQ: Increasing human rights violations [1]

Since early 2006, the Iraqi province, Diyala, is witnessing an unprecedented increase in human displacement and killings of people on an ethnic and sectarian basis. This seems to be a continuation of well-planned operations ongoing in the province since the US-led invasion in 2003.

The Iraqi authorities are covertly avoiding responsibility by claiming that this is the action of forces beyond the realms of the current law and continues to classify the cleansing as a terrorist act.

The authorities are fully aware that this is the action of 'Al Hashd Al-Shaabi' in English: ' Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF)' a militia well known for its association with the Iraqi government.

PMF forces act on orders of the government, carrying out operations alongside the Iraqi army, and in occasionally even commanding the Iraqi forces. Operating under the shadow of the government provides impunity from legal prosecution.

Evidence highlights the active participation of governmental organs in the implementation of this heinous crime. A crime fuelled with ethnic and religious motives.

The aggression is towards one group particularly, the (Sunni Arabs). This community is facing death, displacement and detention of hundreds of thousands of its members.

There are also widespread cases of house demolitions and looting. The burning and desecration of mosques, together with the humiliation and insult of imams and preachers is a clear policy that aims at deliberately degrading the dignity in front of the community and their peers. Underlining the fact that what is going on in Diyala undoubtedly is ethnic cleansing.

We (signatory NGOs to this statement) alongside Diyala natives view the government of Haider al-Abadi, of being legally responsible for the actions perpetrated.

Ethnic Cleansing

The UN "General Assembly resolution 47/121 referred in its Preamble to "the abhorrent policy of 'ethnic cleansing', as a form of genocide." It is in practice used, by reference to a specific region or area, to mean "rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove persons of given groups from the area."

The actions currently taking place in Diyal fully fulfils the criteria for an act of ethnic cleansing and by extension genocide. The situation remains very dire and if not acted upon immediately will be a disastrous stain on the reputation of the international community and most of all humanity. There is no crime more cruel and evil in this world than ethnic cleansing.

What is going on in Diyala province?

Today, the Diyala province is under the control of the Badr militia, the Saraya Al Salam militia (formerly Mahdi army militia) and Hezbollah. It has been that way since the defeat of ISIS last year.

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[1] - This written statement is based on a longer version report submitted by our partner (Geneva International Centre for Justice-GICJ), in which it reflects its finding about the case of (Ethnic Cleansing in Diyala/Iraq) based on testimonies with victims, NGOs, eyewitnesses from the region, member of the Iraqi local authorities and members of the Iraqi Parliament. See: IRAQ: Ethnic and Sectarian Cleansing In Diyala, GICJ report: http://www.gicj.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=452&Itemid=41

Some parts of the province were under ISIS control for a brief period following its entry into Iraq in June 2014. The ISIS occupation resulted in many tragedies, horrors and violations.

The militias that now control the province took advantage of the instability and seized control of all resources available, preventing a large number of citizens, forced to leave under ISIS from returning to their homes.

Most of the citizens deprived from their right to return are residents of al-Muqdadiyah and the Sinsil Bassin, a geographical strip that includes more than 33 villages. Militias and security forces have expropriated their villages and looted their homes, leaving behind a destroyed society.

In the meantime, the destruction of mosques on sectarian basis and the senseless murder of many worshipers and religious leaders continue at the hands of the militias.

The events unfolding in al-Muqdadiyah are part of a systematic policy implemented by the Iraqi authorities through its affiliated militias that clearly aims to displace Sunni-Arab residents and provoke a forcible demographic change within the Province of Diyala.

Furthermore, the presence and involvement of Iranian general Qassem Suleimani, commander in chief of the Quds brigade, is clear evidence of an Iranian involvement.

Arbitrary Arrests: a method of intimidation.

Arbitrary arrests represent one chapter in the implementation of the crime of forced displacement. The governmental security forces, aid forced displacement via the use of collective arrests.

Victims are kept in over 30 places of detention. People subjected to these detention sites suffer from overcrowding, neglect and the spread of skin diseases amongst others. Detainees are subjected to the worst methods of brutal torture and degrading treatment towards human dignity, not to mention having to tolerate insults and verbal abuse on a daily basis, which go beyond insulting religious beliefs and clergy.

Implementation methods

The ethnic cleansing policy is implemented through the numerous militias active in Iraq - either acting individually or under the Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi umbrella.

The armed groups threaten citizens and use intimidation techniques to force residence to leave. The displaced, leave behind their land, homes and belongings.

Once residence are forced out militias come and systematically loot every house, often burning or destroying them in the process so that they become uninhabitable for their legitimate owners. Under another scenario, the houses are given to those who the militias decide will inhabit it as from that moment.

Testimonies confirm that some parliamentarians and political elements are clearly involved in exchange for political gains and profitable business deals.

This risky plan has the sole purpose of ensuring demographic change in the population. This represents a threat to the civil peace and security as it atomizes a volatile social fabric that has been previously damaged by decades of war and sanctions.

Forced displacement has been one of the main reasons for the protests and demonstrations that erupted in Diyala in 2013. The demonstrations were met with repressive policies enacted by the government and its agencies.

The brutality reached its peak with the Sarya mosque massacre on Friday the 17th of May 2013. 100 worshipers were either killed or wounded in the process. The massacre signalled a steady increase in violence. Power hungry leadership escalated sectarian bias.

Barwana massacre

Hadi al-Amiri, leader of the Badr Militia declared victory over ISIS in al-Muqdadiyah on the evening of Monday the 26th of January 2015. On the same evening, on orders of Qais al-Khaz'ali, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq militia leader forces gathered people from surrounding towns and villages towards the village of Barwana.

Witnesses confirmed that fighters brought scores of men and boys by force from their homes, beating and insulting them whilst using terms of a sectarian nature. The victims were then divided into groups and gunned down from behind. 72 innocent civilians lost their lives in this single incident alone.

On the second week of January 2016, as a result of a bombing campaign, dozens of innocent people were killed in the same city of al-Muqdadiyah. Simultaneously militiamen were roaming the streets of the city using loudspeakers, shouting sectarian slogans, threatening the Sunni Arabs, ordering them to leave the city or find their death.

Later in the same week, the militias conducted mass executions on a sectarian basis. Violence did not stop and the violence extended to surrounding villages.

Reports indicate that the violence destroyed up to 13 mosques and left over 120 massacred. The victims were mainly young Sunni-Arab men.

Impunity

The Iraqi invasion and the following occupation led to the total destruction of the notion of justice. The rule of law is now replaced by a state of anarchy and sectarian violence.

The investigations, committees and inquiries led by the Iraqi authorities into crimes against humanity have yielded no tangible results. Taking into consideration that the invasion took place13 years ago.

We call upon the UN to immediately enact steps to launch an independent and impartial inquiry into the gross human rights violations in Iraq. The inquiry should be free of any government meddling and cover-ups.

The goal being to publish a report that is transparent and candid, enabling those guilty to be brought to justice and in turn assure that similar acts do not reoccur.

Recommendations

The NGOs signatory to this statement call upon the United Nations Human Rights Council and UNHCHR to immediately act on the following steps:

- The immediate dispatch of an international independent mission of inquiry, to investigate all violations stated in this report, and in those of other NGOs reports.
- Requesting that all human rights bodies (in the forefront of them the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) to take all necessary measures that fall within its mandate, to put an end to this crime.
- Calling on member states of the United Nations to take all relevant steps within their power to ensure that those responsible are prosecuted for the above-mentioned crimes.

- Demanding the member states of the Human Rights Council to take all the necessary steps to appoint a Special Rapporteur for the human rights situation in Iraq.

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The BRussells Tribunal, Arab Lawyers Association- UK, Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ), Association of Humanitarian Lawyers (AHL), The International League of Iraqi Academics (ILIA), The Iraqi Commission on Human Rights (ICHR), Women Will Association (WWA), Organization for Widows and Orphans (OWO), Ikraam Center for Human Rights, Belgian Peace Movement, Ligue camerounaise des droits de l'homme, International Coalition against War Criminals (ICAWC), Medical Aid for the Third World, Association of Iraqi Diplomats (AID), General Federation of Iraqi Women (GFIW), Association of Iraqi Intellectuals and Academics, The International Network of Arab Human Rights NGOs, The Perdana Global Peace Foundation, Kuala Lumpur Foundation to Criminalise War, Spanish Campaign against the Occupation and for Iraq Sovereignty- CEOSI, Arab Cause Solidarity Committee, Iraq Solidarity Association in Stockholm, Human Rights Defenders in Iraq (AHRDI), Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, The Iraqi Centre for Human Rights, Association, Organisation for Justice & Democracy in Iraq (OJDI), NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

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Human Rights Council
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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Shia Rights Watch Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Recognizing Social Justice as the Foundation of all Developments

Greetings esteemed colleagues and member states,

On behalf of Shia Muslims around the world it is a pleasure to be able to present this address to the commission. The Right to development is an important tool in lifting nations out of number of ongoing issues such as poverty, illiteracy, un-employment, violence, and even political and cultural discriminations.

We, at Shia Rights Watch, believe most challenging concerns of society can be facilitated by empowering all members of the society via social justice. In fact, development is only met when all people, regardless of their race, culture, socio-economic status, religion, and nationality live in socially just environments where they are given the opportunity to reach their full potential. No nation can grow and progress without involvement of its citizen. Unrest in most countries is a direct result of governments' refusal to allow their citizens to become involved in development. War in Syria, unrest in Libya and Egypt, and riots in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are examples of how governments' reluctance to involve all members of the society in decision making for their futures has resulted in retrogression instead of development. The United Nations plays an important role in emphasizing the need of inclusive approaches from governments. Ostracizing minorities, limiting their accessibilities, suppressing their peaceful assembly, and threatening their existence has led to distrust between communities and authorities. Authentic development in such a society is almost impossible. The SRW believes that honoring the rights of people to take part in their government, acknowledging their membership, giving them freedom to practice their religion, and including minorities in the mainstream population is crucial for sustainable development goals.

Through this statement, we hope to advocate for the Shia minority who have been directly attacked by some governments and many extremist groups. Please note: This statement uses the Shia minority as an example and this model can be applied for all groups. We use this population because our NGO's specialty is focused on this group. However, as an organization we support all minority groups and human rights across the world.

According to the first ever causality analyses data base gathered by our research wing, on average 28 Shia Muslims were killed, arrested, or kidnapped on a daily basis in the year 2015. The Shia community cannot help the progress of their country due to extreme fear of the potential consequences that they may face at the hands of their government.In addition their home countries cannot progress and develop because of the existence of unsatisfied populations. Oppressing minority groups, and denying their rights negatively disturbs both small communities as well as larger society. By putting individuals at the center of development, and by including minorities in mainstream of the society, countries establish a basis for tolerance and diversity, and you ensure that change comes from the bottom up rather than from the top down.

Based on our research, Shia population reported not feeling safe in 24 countries around the world. In other words in 11% of the world's countries there are Shia Muslims who live under fear of physical and emotional violence. In addition, this threat of violence has, in no small way, been aided by officials who have done little to investigate and prosecute crimes against Shia. Bombings and shootings against Shia Muslims largely occur without retribution either on the individuals committing the acts or the organizations facilitating the acts. This slow response by governing authorities has significantly reduced trust for the institutions designed to protect them. Without this trust acting as a basis for development, the aspirations proclaimed in this committee will largely go unheeded.

Beside high number of causalities, this group faces limitations in many critical areas for development such as education. In Malaysia, for example, all Shia publications and educational materials are banned. Meanwhile, e mainstream sermons and school curriculums have been documented to contain hate speech that incites violence against Shia Muslims. Some of these materials contain language similar to that displayed by terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda. Shia minorities face so many discriminations that they can be covered under more than ten categories of the list of UN human rights issues such as:

Civil & political Rights, Detention, Education, Economic/ Social & culture Rights, Freedom of Religion and Belief, Minorities, Torture, Transitional Justice, Violent, and more. (http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/ListOfIssues.aspx)

Respect for free expression, judicial reform, protection of safety, greater intergroup cohesion, and a rebuilding of trust must be the foundation for social development efforts all communities. When we can move past the elements of divisive governance and put individuals at the center of development, we will be able to witness great strides to a more unified and prosperous society.

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Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

Individual IDs with SR on Iran

It is a long time that he majority part of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, is related to huge amount of death penalty. According to unofficial or even governmental released statistics, more than 70 percent of executions belong to drug-related offences. So by omitting the mentioned large punishment, the number of that would drop down more than 75%. As a NGO cooperating with some other NGOs and research centers, we are trying to scrutinize the issue. Also, during necessary investigation we enquire experts and government to explain the reasons.

According to second clause of 6th article of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and not contrary to the provisions of the present covenant and to the convention on the prevention and punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This penalty can only be carried out pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court.

Furthermore, execution has been common and usual punishment across the world during the history, however, only offences threating the society status. These subjects and crimes are not only criminalized in few items but also confirmed by all of lawyers and jurists in Iran. Additionally, owing to be considered as a basic fundamental for national security, it is applicable for society.

Some of the most considerable subjects in this issue would be mentioned as follows.

Iran is among top countries fighting against narcotics in the world
Smuggling subject is very complicated issue. According to UN reports, the global drug trade generated an estimated US$ 500 billion. This huge amount of money comes to an attraction field for criminal activities. On the other hand, because of neighboring with Afghanistan the biggest producer of Heroin, Islamic Republic of Iran isthe Balkan route traverses and the main trafficking corridors linking Afghanistan. Hence, Iran is the most engaged country in fighting with drugs. As a matter of fact, fighting with trafficking narcotics annually, however cost a lot, it is confronted with significant distribution of drugs across the country.

Legal aspects and public approach to execution
The death penalty for smuggling has been legislated in 1960 for the first time and confirmed after Islamic Revolution. In 1980, religious authorities confirmed that and Iranians in political rallies count it as a great success. It is supposed that how Iranians were threatened with drugs on those days.
In recent years, the deterrent effect of execution has been criticized by some lawyers and jurists especially because drug contraband has been complicated and exceeded in Iran's east borders by terrorist groups recently. The lawyers are categorized in two majors:

1- First, one believe that complicity of smuggling network threats on society is so much that even a minor decline in punishment will increase the amount of contraband and decrease the risk of contributing in this kind of activities for unemployed people. Needless to say that the economic situation affected by international sanctions against Iran, plays a main role in the ground.
2- Second, one believes that most of executions relates to Heroin retailers who just carried more or less 30 gr Heroin. Accordingly, this legal barrier should have been amended.

Obviously, narcotics issue is very complicated in Iran rather than other countries. It is thought that it would be investigated in Iranian culture paradigms. We believe that human beings have inherent munificence that has granted him the right to live. But when it comes to be threatened by a drug smuggler, and a portion of society especially the young are crammed into drug infested, he is convict. Moreover, it would be assumed as a genocide that will affect the whole society.

What sorts of activities have been done?
We decided to investigate mentioned issue, wisely, logically and beyond political views, in respect of human rights. Accordingly, we came to this conclusion that present punishments have to be amended and execution involved in drugs has to be limited and convicts should be punished with alternatives like life imprisonment or heavy financial penalties.

Nevertheless, precautionary measures have to be taken including cultural activities and enhancing public awareness in order to reduce the demands of drugs.

Moreover, we could have some negotiations with some legislators and persuaded them that some of the punishments related to drugs have to be amended. Accordingly, about 70 legislators drafted a legislation that would impose stiff penalties instead of execution. It seems that any kind of hastily and without appropriate researched measures would be likely result irrelevant issues. Altogether, we appreciate this movement and we are trying to aggregate lawyers and jurists' observation in order to be passed by legislature and the judiciary.